GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1520
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
AMENDMENT IN ARTICLE 243-C
DILEEP SANGHANI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Constitution Amendment is must to grant autonomy to the States in deciding the mode of functioning of various tiers of Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to amend Article 243-C of the Constitution; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a)&(b) No, Sir. Article 243-G of the Constitution has vested the States Legislatures with powers to make laws to endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. It also provides that such laws may contain provisions for devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India introduced the Constitution (87th Amendment) Bill, 1999 in the Rajya Sabhya in December, 1999. It was decided to have wider consultations with all the political parties and the State Governments on the Bill. Accordingly, the comments of all the State Chief Ministers were sought in this behalf. A meeting of Leaders of all parties in the Parliament was held under the Chairmanship of the Hon`ble Prime Minister on 19th May, 2001 to seek the views/comments on the Constitution (87th Amendment) Bill, 1999. Since no consensus was arrived at in the Meeting, it was decided to defer the Bill.